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EVENING PAPERS : THURSDAY, 17TH MARCH, 1949

MORNING PAPERS : FRIDAY, 18TH MARCH, 1949

#### EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS, JANUARY, 1949

Slight fall (0.3 per cent.) in Employment during January.

The number of wage and salary earners in employment, exclusive of rural workers and female private domestics, fell by 7,400 or 0.3 per cent. during January, 1949. At the end of January the number of males employed (1,756,100) was 2,600 more than in December, 1948 but this rise was offset by a fall (mainly seasonal) of 10,000 in the number of females to 653,200. The total number of persons employed (2,409,300) was still higher than the figure for November, 1948 (2,400,200).

#### CHANGES IN STATE FIGURES

The number of persons in employment rose by 700 in South Australia and 300 in Tasmania but fell in all other States. Female employment was lower in all states except Tasmania, where seasonal conditions resulted in a rise of 100. Males employment fell in Victoria and Queensland but rose in the other four States.

#### CHANGES IN INDUSTRIAL GROUPS

The number of males employed in factories rose by 2,900 to 619,800 and increases also occurred in forestry, fishing and trapping, building and construction, transport and communication, property and finance, public authority activity, n.e.i., professional, entertainment, sport, etc., and personal service. Decreases in male employment occurred in mining and quarrying, commerce, health services and education.

A fall of 6,400 in commerce and of 3,200 in factories accounted for the greater part of the fall in female employment, but the drop in numbers was shared by most industrial groups. The only rises which took place were in building and construction, property and finance, law and order, health services, and personal service, increases of 100 being recorded in each case.

#### FALL IN FACTORY EMPLOYMENT

Total employment in factories fell by 286 during January, an increase of 2,952 in the number of males employed being offset by a fall of 3,238 in female employment. Male employment increased in most factory classes but decreases took place in the manufacture of jewellery and watches, textiles and knitted goods, food, drink and tobacco and rubber goods. The only class where there was a significant increase in the level of female employment was food, drink and tobacco.

#### INCREASE IN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT

Government employment rose by 1,300 during January, 700 of the increase being in employees of Commonwealth Authorities and 1,100 in employees of State governments. Employment by local government authorities fell by 500.

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